

Message Text

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ACTION ABF-01

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P R 010705Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3149
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USCG HONOLULU HAWAII
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL SYDNEY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS CANBERRA 3304

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AGAO, ENRG, AS
SUBJ: GAO: REVIEW: INTERNATIONAL ENERGY ISSUES

REF: STATE 106971

1. SUMMARY: UNFORTUNATELY, LAKESIDE HOTEL FULLY BOOKED DURING TIME OF VISIT OF GAO TEAM OF WARREN GARDNER AND ANDREW STAR. EMBASSY HAS THEREFORE CONFIRMED TWO SINGLES FOR THE NIGHT OF MAY 18 AT THE CANBERRA REX: TELEPHONE (062) 48-53111. EMBASSY CONTROL OFFICER WILL BE T.V. (TERRY) MCINTYRE, EMBASSY REGIONAL RESOURCES ATTACHE.

2. MOST OF PROGRAM REQUESTED BY GAO TEAM IS FALLING INTO LINE; HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF TRAVEL STATUS OF OTHER REASONS OF STATE, SOME CONTACTS ARE NOT NOW AVAILABLE. WE SHALL PURSUE THESE AND FILL IN DATA AS OBTAINED. MEANWHILE, FOLLOWING IS STATUS OF INTERVIEWS REQUESTED REFTEL. END SUMMARY.

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3. J.T. LARKIN, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY, URANIUM AND ELECTRICITY DIVISION, DEPT. OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT. UNFORTUNATELY, LARKIN WILL BE AWAY FROM CANBERRA ON MAY 18/19. HOWEVER, HE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN MELBOURNE DURING WEEK OF MAY 22ND AND WILL BE PLEASED TO WORK OUT A TIME WHEN IT WILL BE MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TO DISCUSS ENERGY MATTERS WITH GAO TEAM. ALTHOUGH JIM SCULLY,

PERMANENT HEAD OF DEPARTMENT IN CANBERRA WILL BE AWAY FROM AUSTRALIA DURING TIME OF VISIT, EMBASSY IS LOOKING INTO APPROPRIATE ALTERNATE OFFICERS WHO MAY BE AVAILABLE AND QUALIFIED TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF COAL, GAS, ENERGY RELATED MINERALS EXPORTS AND URANIUM STRATEGY AS WELL AS OTHER ENERGY ISSUES WITH TEAM ON MAY 19 AND WILL REPORT IN DUE COURSE.

4. J.D. NORGARD, WHO RESIDENT IN MELBOURNE, WILL BE PLEASED TO MEET WITH GAO TEAM IN MELBOURNE DURING WEEK OF MAY 22ND (TEL - 03 - 267-2155; 609 - 8118.) HOWEVER, HE NOTES THAT TOM BAKER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF PIPELINE AUTHORITY IS IN CANBERRA AND IS REALLY THE MAN TO PROVIDE ALL THE ANSWERS. WE HAVE DISCUSSED VISIT WITH BAKER WHO WILL BE PLEASED TO MEET TEAM AND TO PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE ON MAY 19TH.

5. BEN SMITH OF AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (ANU) HAS INFORMED US THAT HIS MAIN AREA IS NOT ENERGY ALTHOUGH HE WILL BE PLEASED TO MEET WITH TEAM. SMITH HAS SUGGESTED HUGH SADLER OF THE ANU STAFF FOR THE CENTER FOR RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES WHO IS AN EXPERT ON ENERGY WITH RESPECT TO URANIUM AND AUSTRALIAN URANIUM EXPORTS AND PROFESSOR ALISTER ULPH WHO IS WELL-GROUNDED ON AUSTRALIAN DOMESTIC ENERGY PROBLEMS AND PROGRAMS. SADLER HAS INFORMED US HE WILL MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE AND ULPH BEING UNCLASSIFIED

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CONTACTED BY SMITH. WE WILL INFORM TEAM OF HIS INTERESTS IN DUE COURSE.

6. J.B. CARTER OF DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND DR. ROSS GARNAUT OF ANU NOT AVAILABLE UNTIL ON/ABOUT MAY ELEVENTH. WE WILL FOLLOW UP AND ATTEMPT TO FIRM UP APPOINTMENTS AND INFORM GAO TEAM IN DUE COURSE.

7. CHRIS HURFORD OF ALP WILL NOT BE IN CANBERRA DURING TIME OF VISIT OF GAO TEAM. HIS OFFICE WILL RELAY OUR PROPOSAL TO HIM AND GET BACK IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY JUST AS SOON AS MR. HURFORD RETURNS TO CANBERRA. MEANWHILE, HIS OFFICE SUGGESTS THAT TEAM MAY NOT BE AWARE THAT THE CURRENT SHADOW MINISTER FOR MINERALS AND ENERGY IS PAUL KEATING WITH WHOM GAO TEAM MAY WISH TO DISCUSS ISSUES AS WELL. ENFIELD FORMERLY OF PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT HAS MOVED OVER TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, IS IN EUROPE WITH MINISTER GARLAND, AND IS NOT EXPECTED BACK TO CANBERRA BEFORE LATE MAY. WE SHALL MONITOR IN ANY EVENT AND KEEP TEAM INFORMED. MEANWHILE, WOULD TEAM WISH TO PURSUE ENERGY ISSUES WITH HARVEY JACKA WHO HAS STEPPED INTO ENFIELD'S SHOES IN PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT? WE FOLLOWING UP TO

ASCERTAIN AREAS OF EXPERTISE OF JACKA FOR THE GAO TEAM.

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